

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13
/086 W

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R 120951Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB TH
SUBJECT: LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND

1. ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1977, FIFTEEN THAI LABOR UNIONS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN, PRESIDENT OF THE METROPOLITAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY WORKERS UNION, SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO RTG DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) FOR REGISTRATION AS THE LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND (LCT). THE APPLICATION WAS MADE PURSUANT TO THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL DECREE NO 46 OF OCTOBER 21, 1976, WHICH PROVIDES THAT "NOT LESS THAN 15 LABOR UNIONS OR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS MAY ESTABLISH AN EMPLOYEE COUNCIL TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND LABOR RELATIONS."

2. AMPHON CHUNNANON, CHIEF, DOL LABOR RELATIONS DIVISION, INITIALLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE LCT'S APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION. SHE NOTED THAT SEVEN OF THE FIFTEEN PARTICIPATING UNIONS ARE STATE ENTERPRISE UNIONS AND STATED THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR POLICY PRECLUDES ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM STATE ENTERPRISE LABOR UNIONS BECAUSE ACCORDING TO JURIDICAL COUNCIL OPINION SUCH UNIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED UNDER THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT AND THEIR EARLIER REGISTRATION'S UNDER ACT THEREFORE
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ILLEGAL. AFTER LABOR LEADERS CHALLENGED DOL'S RATIONALE, AMPHON CONSULTED WITH DOL DIRECTOR GENERAL SUWIT YINGWORAPHAN AND AGREED TO RECEIVE APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION AT HIGHER LEVELS.

3. IN CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1977, WITH USDOL AREA SPECIALIST GLENN HALM AND EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER, DIRECTOR

GENERAL SUWIT SAID HE PLANS TO NOTIFY LCT " IN A FEW DAYS
THAT APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION IS NOT ACCEPTED." SUWIT
USED SAME REASONING AS MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPH 2.

4. COMMENT: LCT IS ESSENTIALLY A REJUVENATION OF EARLIER
LABOR COUNCIL OF THAILAND FORMED IN JULY 1976 AND LEGALLY
DISBANDED BY RTG IN OCTOBER 1976 AS NOT ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH PROVISIONS OF THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT. PHAISAN AND OTHER
LCT LEADERS HAVE IN FACT CONTINUED TO MEET INFORMALLY
DESPITE LACK OF LEGAL STATUS AND RTG RESTRICTIONS.
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION IS DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE DOL
ON QUESTION OF STATUS OF STATE ENTERPRISE LABOR UNIONS AND
MUSTER SUPPORT AMONG MORE LIBERAL AND/OR OPPORTUNISTIC
ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY AND NARA FOR MORE PRO-LABOR POLICY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND
TAGS: ELAB, TH
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Type: TE
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